

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF CHRIS SMITH, HAYS CONSOLI-
DATED HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER
OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the exhaustive contributions of Chris Smith, Hays Consolidated High School Teacher of the Year.

Chris began his career as a youth minister, and soon teaching became a passion. As a Math teacher, he surprised his coworkers by successfully pairing Special Education students with honors students to work on joint projects in the computer lab. Many of his students improved as much as 15 points on the Math TAKS over the last 2 years.

Yet for Chris Smith, the true judgment of his accomplishments is self-imposed. He strives to be a classroom entertainer, a friend, a father figure, and sometimes a teacher as well. His greatest asset is to positively change the course of another person's life.

Chris demonstrates to his students that they are each special and important. He endeavors to mold his students into adults that enjoy life, love to laugh, and will create a positive impact on one another.

It is my privilege to acknowledge Chris Smith, the Hays Consolidated School Teacher of the Year. Chris's passion and love of teaching sets a shining example for all in his community.

RECOGNIZING THE JIMMY STEWART
MUSEUM OF INDIANA, PA

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize with great pride the Jimmy Stewart Museum of Indiana, Pennsylvania, in honor of the 10th anniversary of its opening. Honoring the life of a motion picture icon and American patriot, the Jimmy Stewart Museum preserves all aspects of Indiana, Pennsylvania's favorite son.

While most Americans remember Jimmy Stewart as idealistic Jefferson Smith in Mr. Smith Goes to Washington, watching him go toe-to-toe with Katherine Hepburn in *The Philadelphia Story*, and welcoming George Bailey into their homes every year at Christmas to find out why exactly *It's A Wonderful Life*, the people of Indiana proudly remember him as a good neighbor and citizen dedicated to his beloved hometown where his family resided for generations.

It is for this reason they came together to develop the Jimmy Stewart Museum which became a community effort in every sense of the words. While modesty initially shied Jimmy Stewart himself away from the idea of such a project, he came to understand the economic benefits the museum could produce for the area. With the creation of the Jimmy Stewart Foundation in 1994 the project catapulted into action with local volunteers, financial backers, and even a local architect who designed the

facility pro-bono. Not only would the museum improve the economy of the community, it would improve the morale and incorporate a spirit of generosity to everyone who became involved with the museum and its efforts.

The Jimmy Stewart Museum, located directly across from the site of his father's hardware store, opened to the public on May 20, 1995, Stewart's 87th birthday. Since then it has welcomed tens of thousands of visitors from all over the world to view an extensive collection of personal, local, and film industry memorabilia. Included in the collection is the Oscar awarded to Stewart for his Best Actor performance in *The Philadelphia Story*, as well as particular emphasis on his service to his country during WWII where he served as a bomber pilot in the European Theater and retired with the rank of brigadier general.

While the contributions of Jimmy Stewart to both community and the arts are undeniably deserved, the recognition for those who had the foresight and determination to preserve the memory of such an extraordinary life must not go unnoticed. Notable supporters Nick and Nina Clooney and comedian Rich Little generously donate their time to assist in the efforts of keeping the museum at its best. The museum is a true testament to the character of Indiana and I am proud of the devotion the town has shown towards their favorite son and subsequently to each other in the creation of this museum.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Jimmy Stewart Museum on its 10th Anniversary and offer my genuine best wishes for many prosperous years to come.

IN HONOR OF SANFORD WALKER,
PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Sanford Walke of Hernando Beach, FL. A chief engineer in the Army during World War II, Mr. Walke received the Purple Heart for his heroic actions in battle.

Mr. Walke was in the Army from November 1942 through November 1945, serving during World War II in the European Theatre. Assigned to the 398th Bomb Group—8th Air Force, Mr. Walke was a chief engineer on a B17.

On a flight to Germany on July 8, 1944, Mr. Walke's plane was shot down over France. The last one to jump out of the plane, Mr. Walke's parachute had a missing panel that made him fall to the ground faster than would normally occur. Ironically, the parachute malfunction saved his life because the enemy on the ground was shooting at him the entire time, but was unable to accurately target his fall.

Mr. Walke was taken as a prisoner of war and held in a German prison camp. Months later, he and 2,000 other POW's walked for 75 days and 500 miles on a forced march before he was able to escape with another British soldier. They were hiding in a barn in a German village when British tanks rolled in and took over the town. The British took care of him from there until he was able to reunite with Americans.

Mr. Speaker, true American heroes like Sanford Walke should be honored for their service to our Nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in battle. I am honored to present Mr. Walke with his long-overdue Purple Heart. He is truly one of America's greatest generation.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF JANET CAROL PATTERSON,
WALLACE MIDDLE SCHOOL
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the contributions of Janet Carol Patterson, Wallace Middle School Teacher of the Year.

From a young age, Janet expressed the desire to work with young people, helping out with youth groups at her church. Her interest stemmed from a desire to have a positive influence on the lives of the children in her community.

Janet sees her greatest accomplishments through the successes of her students. She is proud to offer inspiration each year, encouraging her students to believe in themselves and always do their best.

Janet Carol Patterson has taught Language Arts in the Hays CISD school district for 24 years. Among her numerous contributions and accomplishments, she values the relationships she has developed with her students the most. She has been described as "a teacher who leaves an imprint on her students' hearts," and a "second mom." Janet greets her students at the door with a handshake, and endeavors to open their hearts, as well as their minds.

I am honored to acknowledge Janet Carol Patterson, Wallace Middle School Teacher of the year. Her hard work and dedication enrich the lives of everyone in her community.

THE PENSION FAIRNESS AND
FULL DISCLOSURE ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce "The Pension Fairness and Full Disclosure Act," legislation to end the gross discrepancies between the way the retirement packages of a company's rank and file employees and top-executives are treated.

Executive compensation packages often provide lavish golden parachutes that are hidden from employees, shareholders, and regulators. Employees are told the company has little choice but to cut their pay and benefits, while being kept in the dark about the fortunes that companies shower on executives who have presided over the company's failure.

In fact, extensive executive packages are often increased at the very same time their employees' pensions are cut. As employees are asked to give back benefits they have